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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 16, 2005

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## **EOEA SECRETARY PRITCHARD LAUDS ALPHA GARY CORPORATION FOR LEAD REDUCTION**

Stephen R. Pritchard, the Secretary for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) visited the Alpha Gary Corporation in Leominster today to highlight the company's success in lead reduction.

In 1998, the Alpha Gary Corporation successfully launched a lead reduction pilot program. Under this program, alternatives to lead compounds were evaluated for use in the company's products. By demonstrating materials of equivalent or improved quality, the company was then able to successfully incorporate these alternatives into their design process, thereby reducing the amount of time to bring new products to market. By 2004, the company experienced a 30 percent reduction in the use of lead and lead compounds, as well as reducing other toxic materials such as cadmium compounds and other heavy metals.

"Reducing the amount of lead in the environment has been and remains a priority," Pritchard said. "Your efforts here have helped to reduce the risk of exposure and improved your own fiscal standing, showing that it's possible to do well by doing good."

Alpha Gary's participation in the wire and cable supply chain effort sponsored by the Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) as well as its efforts to gain flexibility from Underwriter Laboratory resulted in a new generation of non-lead compounds for the wire and cable industry.

Alpha Gary continues to work with Underwriters Laboratories, the major certification organization for the Wire & Cable Industry, as well as their own customers to:

- accelerate the acceptance and preferences for new polymer compounds with lower/no lead compounds in their formulations

- and, to reduce the use of lead compounds and other toxics

The plastics industry employs 1,700 people in Massachusetts and generates more than 3 billion in revenue. Plastics are an important industry to the Massachusetts economy.

The reductions in the use of lead and the increase in manufacturing efficiency have allowed Alpha Gary to benefit on this investment by maintaining their capability as a technology leader and retain their competitive global supply position for its customers.

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